

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding Erroll Southers' decision to withdraw his nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA):

"I am saddened to hear that Mr. Southers has decided to withdraw his name from consideration for TSA's top position. He was, and still remains, an exceptional candidate for the position.

"It is important to realize that the demise of Mr. Southers' nomination had nothing to do with credentials, and everything to do with partisan politics. Some of my colleagues may have scored cheap political points by stonewalling Mr. Southers' nomination, but they did so at the expense of our country's safety and security.

"TSA's lack of leadership doesn't 'just' affect the agency. It affects a vital part of our homeland security operation. It affects millions of Americans who use our transportation systems and airports every day. And it affects the public's perception of our priorities, which increasingly seem out of step with those of the American public."

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